

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
 AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DESIGN PATENT

SAH  
 #31

Applicant: Kruse et al.  
 Serial No.: ~~To Be Assigned~~ 09/868283  
 Filed: 6-15-01  
 Title: METHOD FOR DARKENING A  
 SUPERFICIAL LAYER WHICH  
 CONTAINS ZINC AND WHICH IS OF A  
 MATERIAL PIECE

Docket No.: 27153.2400 9-27-01  
 Art Unit: ~~To Be Assigned~~ 1741  
 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned leader

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT  
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

A1  
 5. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 3 [or 4,]  
 characterized by being carried out at a pH value exceeding 13.

6. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the Claims from] Claim 3  
 [to 5,] characterized by anodic oxidation being executed during a period of treatment  
 (t) of between 1 second to 10 minutes.

A2  
 8. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 3 [to 7,]  
 characterized by being carried out with direct voltage.

A3  
 11. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the Claims from] Claim 8  
 [to 10,] characterized by the dipping bath containing from 25 to 35 g/l NaOH and  
 from 30 to 50 g/l NaNO<sub>3</sub> or Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.

A4  
 13. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the claims from] Claim 3 [to  
 7,] characterized by being carried out with alternating voltage.

A5  
 15. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to Claim 13 [or 14,] characterized by  
 the dipping bath containing from 10 to 35 g/l NaOH and from 30 to 60 g/l NaNO<sub>3</sub> or  
 Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.

A6  
 17. ~~[(Amended)]~~ Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 13 [to  
 16,] characterized by the dipping bath containing from 10 to 15 g/l of NaOH and  
 from 10 to 60 g/l of an alkali salt being selected from among the group comprising  
 phosphates, acetates, carbonates, sulphates, oxalates, citrates, and borates of alkali  
 metals.